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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1956





PREFACE

Public Health Office,  
12a, Institute Road,  
Swanage, Dorset.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Wareham

Madam Mayor, Mrs. Nelson and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Wareham for the year 1956.

The Report is set out in sections in the following order:-

	<u>Pages</u>
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The health of the Borough remained satisfactory throughout the year there being few cases of notifiable infectious disease.

The estimated new year population shows a decrease of 20 on that of the previous year. Births were 2 less and deaths 9 more than in 1955. The standardised rates show no significant variation from those for England and Wales as a whole.

It is unfortunate that conditions appear to be unfavourable for house building as there are still some urgent cases on the Council's list of applicants for rehousing.

Conditions in a number of food premises were improved as a result of inspections to secure compliance with the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations which came into force during the year.

Once again I wish to record my appreciation of your kindness and consideration, and to thank the other Officials of the Council for their help and co-operation during the year, especially your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Tanner, who has helped to prepare this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

E. J. O'KEEFE

Medical Officer of Health

September, 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. J. O'Keeffe, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. R. Tanner, M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer of Health holds in addition the following appointments -

Medical Officer of Health for the Swanage Urban District.  
Medical Officer of Health for the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District.  
Assistant Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.

Office accommodation and clerical assistance is provided for the Medical Officer of Health jointly by the Authorities concerned.

The Public Health Inspector in addition to his statutory duties is also Borough Surveyor and Petroleum Officer.

The Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health are -

The Law and General Purposes Committee.  
The Waterworks and Sewerage Works Committee.  
The Housing Committee.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General Statistics

1.	Area of the Borough	...	...	710 acres
2.	Population			
	At Census 1951	...	..	2,760
	As estimated by Registrar General - mid 1955			2,770
			Mid 1956	2,750
3.	Total number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book -			
		At end of 1955	..	853
		at end of 1956	..	855
4.	Rateable value at 1st. April, 1956	...		£30,858
5.	Sum represented by Penny Rate	...		£69.15.0d.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>					
Total Registered	...	...	37	22	15
Legitimate	...	...	34	20	14
Illegitimate	...	...	3	2	1
<u>Still Births</u>					
Total registered	...	...	1	1	-
Legitimate	...	...	1	1	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths</u>					
Total registered	...	...	70	37	33
<u>Infant Mortality</u>					
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>					
Total registered	...	...	1	1	-
Legitimate	...	...	1	1	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age</u>					
Total registered	...	...	1	1	-
Legitimate	...	...	1	1	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-



BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES - 1956

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population 13.5

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population 25.5

Area Comparability Factors

Births 1.11      Deaths 0.46

	<u>Wareham Borough</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population	15.0	15.7
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	26.3	23.0
Death Rate, per 1,000 Home Population	12.3	11.7
Infant Mortality rates per 1,000 Live Births - all causes under 1 year of age.	27.0	23.8

CAUSES OF DEATH - YEAR 1956

(Supplied by the Registrar General)

	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other .. ..	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease .. ..	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria .. ..	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough .. ..	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infection .. ..	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	-	-	-
8	Measles .. ..	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	1	2	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	-	-	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	-	-	-
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	-	-	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	4	2	6
15	Leukemia, aleukemia .. ..	-	-	-
16	Diabetes .. ..	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	5	12	17
18	Coronary disease, angina .. ..	7	3	10
19	Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	-	2	2
20	Other heart diseases .. ..	7	4	11
21	Other circulatory diseases .. ..	1	1	2
22	Influenza .. ..	1	-	1
23	Pneumonia .. ..	2	2	4
24	Bronchitis .. ..	2	-	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	-	1	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	1	-	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	1	-	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	-	-	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations .. ..	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases ..	4	2	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	-	-	-
34	All other accidents .. ..	1	2	3
35	Suicide .. ..	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of war .. ..	-	-	-
Total .. ..		37	33	70

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

There has been no change in the source of water supply during the year. The new 9" main across the common and 6" main across the North Causeway were brought into use and, as it had been hoped, these have provided adequate gravitational pressures throughout the Borough without the need for boosting. A small number of houses in the Puddletown Road area, in the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District just outside the Borough had always been difficult to supply owing to levels; these are now supplied through a new 4" main and boosted automatically. With the coming into use of the new mains there has been a tendency to increased consumption and this is understandable when one realises that properties that were not getting a good supply are now adequately supplied; during certain times before the new mains came into operation some properties failed to draw water. The average pumping rate over the year was 11,000 gallons per hour. The quality of the treated water remains very satisfactory and was so throughout the year except during October when there was disturbance due to testing on the new mains. This was soon rectified by frequent washing out. Towards the end of the year the Chlorinator was renewed.

Although consideration would have to be given to additional source works, this matter must obviously be considered in conjunction with the discussions which are now proceeding in the formation of a Water Board or similar undertaking following the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 52/56. If a Board is formed it is probable that the Wareham source will only be used during an emergency and any new source works would not be necessary.

The average daily consumption of water was approximately 152,800 gallons.

Wareham Borough	..	..	127,500 gallons
British Railways	..	..	14,700 "
Wareham & Purbeck R.D.C.	..	..	10,600 "

During the year Wareham Mill was connected to the main supply (the 9" main); these premises had been supplied by wells.

<u>Water Supply to Houses in the Borough</u>	<u>Percentage of Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Percentage of Population</u>
<u>From Public Mains</u>		
(a) Direct to dwelling houses	98.86	99.08
(b) By means of standpipe	0.71	0.44
<u>From Private Wells</u>		
Direct to dwelling houses	0.43	0.48

### Bacteriological Examination of Water

#### Public supply

Probable number of B.Coli MacConkey 2 days, 37°C per 100 ml.	No. of Samples			
	Treated Water 56		Raw Water 8	
	Total Coli	Faecal Coli	Total Coli	Faecal Coli
Nil	48	53	7	7
1	4	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	1	1
25	1	1	-	-
30	1	1	-	-
180	1	1	-	-



CHEMICAL ANALYSESCertificate of Analysis of a sample of Untreated Water - Worgret Waterworks

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results: as parts per million.

Ammonia, free	...	...	...	0.117
" Albuminoid	...	...	...	0.132
Nitrites	...	...	...	0.03
Nitrates, as nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	4.37
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F	...	...	...	0.889
Oxygen " " 4 hours " "	...	...	...	1.635
Chlorine	...	...	...	21.5
as Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	35.43
Hardness, temporary	...	...	...	47.5
" permanent	...	...	...	10.0
" total	...	...	...	57.5
Total Solids	...	...	...	167.0
pH Value	...	...	...	6.1

Metals: Iron 1.33 p.p.m. Lead, zinc, copper absent.

Appearance: Colourless and clear.

Odour: None.

Free Chlorine.

Remarks:

This is a clear bright, soft water. It is neutral in reaction and contains some organic matter. The above result give no indication of pollution to the source, and in my opinion the water is very satisfactory for both drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) ARTHUR S. CARLOS.  
Public Analyst.

Certificate of Analysis of a sample of Treated Water.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results: as parts per million.

Ammonia, free	...	...	...	0.147
" Albuminoid	...	...	...	0.225
Nitrites	...	...	...	0.01
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	3.38
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F	...	...	...	0.514
" " " 4 hours " "	...	...	...	1.122
Chlorine	...	...	...	23.0
as Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	37.90
Hardness, temporary	...	...	...	62.5
" permanent	...	...	...	10.0
" total	...	...	...	72.5
Total Solids	...	...	...	182.0
pH value	...	...	...	7.3

Metals: Iron, copper, lead zinc absent.

Appearance: Pale yellow and clear.

Odour: None.

Free Chlorine 0.01

Remarks:

This is a clear bright water, moderately soft in character. It is neutral in reaction and contains some, but not undue amount of organic matter. The results are very satisfactory and give no indication of pollution to the source.

The quantity of residual free chlorine is rather low for a chlorinated water.

In my opinion the water is satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) ARTHUR S. CARLOS.  
Public Analyst.



### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The sewerage system in addition to serving the Borough receives sewage from 59 houses in the Bestwall area of the Warcham & Purbeck Rural District. There were no major extensions to the sewerage system or the disposal works. During the year a further large lagoon was excavated and this formed a wide substantial embankment along the north-eastern and south-eastern boundaries of the works, which hitherto had been weak spots in the perimeter.

Complaints were received of smell from the works from housing development on the north-west along the Sandford Road. This is unavoidable when the wind blows in a south-easterly direction. There is little doubt that the works are gradually becoming overloaded and improvements in the near future would appear inevitable. In view of the close proximity to development and complaints of smell some form of sludge digestion would appear desirable.

No serious case of flooding has occurred at the Quay since the sewers were cleansed and minor alterations carried out at the Old Granary.

No. of houses not connected to the sewer ...	13
No. of houses with pail closets ...	6
No. of houses with cesspools ...	7
No. of pail closets abolished during the year	1
No. of cesspools abolished ...	-
No. of houses connected to the sewer ...	1

#### Drainage works carried out

New drainage systems replacing those unsatisfactory	1
Sewers and drains cleaned .. ...	4

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREASummary of Inspections

Bakehouses	8	Ice Cream	7
Building Byelaws	71	Infectious diseases	1
Butchers shops	17	Miscellaneous	170
Cafes	10	Public Lavatories	5
Caravans	3	Rats and Mice	2
Dairies	2	Samples - Water, Bact.	62
Drainage	44	" Chem.	2
Drainage tests	7	Sewerage and Sewage	
Food Premises	20	Disposal	58
Food Inspection	12	Water Supply	134
Housing (Housing Acts)	82	Workshops/Factories	3
" (General)	395		
" (Public Health)	12		

Total 1127Statutory and Informal Notices

<u>Notices</u>	<u>Number served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Informal	1	1	-
Statutory	-	-	-

Disinfection

There was no disinfection carried out during the year.

Control of Moveable Dwellings

Regular visits are made to the one Caravan site in the Borough and this is well maintained. The sewage disposal plant has now been improved, a new deep settlement tank being constructed and more suitable equipment being fixed to ensure adequate distribution of the effluent over the filter.

Verminous Premises

There were no cases of verminous premises reported during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

House and trade refuse collection is undertaken by the Council and collections are made weekly. The Council's employees assist as far as possible in the maintenance of the refuse tip situated within the adjoining rural district.

Swimming Baths

A new swimming bath was constructed at the County Secondary Modern School for use of pupils. The water is chlorinated and samples taken have given satisfactory results. Bathing takes place in the river Frome near the Quay during summer months.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the Borough is either 'Pasteurised', 'Tuberculin Tested pasteurised' or 'Tuberculin Tested', as the Borough is part of a specified area under Section 45 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950

Number of Milk Distributors on Register 31.12.56. ... 6

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

The following Licences were renewed by the Council and were in force at the end of the year:-

Dealer's Licence for Tuberculin tested milk (pasteurised)	4
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	2
" " " " Tuberculin tested milk	1

Milk Sampling

The following are particulars of milk samples taken in the district by the Food and Drugs Authority for examination:-

Designation	No. of Samples	Results of Tests			
		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	9	9	-	9	-
Tuberculin tested	3	3	-		

Food Inspected and Condemned

Tinned goods 1 cwt. 3 qtrs. 14 lbs.

Meat

Beef	2 "	-	23 "
Lamb		1	20 "
Other meat and offal		3	22 "
Fish			14 "

Food Premises

1. Number of Food Premises by Type of Business in the Area

Grocers	...	10	Fish Shops	4
Greengrocers	...	4	Fried Fish Shops	3
Butchers	...	5	Sweets & Confectionery	5
Dairies	...	1	Cafes & Restaurants	7
Bakehouses	...	1	Licensed premises	11
			(including 3 hotels)	



## 2. Number of Food Premises by Type Registered

### (a) Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act

Manufacture of sausages and preserved foods	8
Fish Frying	3
Sale of Ice Cream	15

### (b) Under Milk and Dairies Regulations

Dairy Premises	1
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## 3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacturing sausages	7
Fish Frying Premises	2
Ice Cream Premises	12
Dairy Premises	1

## Cafes, Restaurants and Food Shops

On the 1st. January, 1956 the new Food Hygiene Regulations came into force with certain provisions coming into force six months later on 1st. July.

A commencement was made on the inspection of all the food establishments and businesses in the area and by the end of the year a large proportion of these had been visited. In nearly all cases certain provisions needed compliance and I am pleased to report that in all cases with the exception of one these have been or are being made. The main provision needing attention is the provision of wash-hand basins but in one or two cases complete overhaul and redecorations were necessary. There is much room for improvement in the protection of food from risk of contamination, especially in connection with confectionery and similar commodities; an effort is to be made to have suitable protecting screens in these cases. It is hoped to visit all the licensed premises and complete the remainder of other businesses as soon as possible.

## Ice Cream (Heat-treatment, etc.) Regulations

No action was necessary under these Regulations.

## Food Hygiene

No formal action was taken during the year under the Byelaws with respect to the Handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

## H O U S I N G

No houses, either Council or private enterprise were erected during the year. Development by private enterprise is proposed in several parts of the town but the Council have no immediate projects in view. The Council is proposing to improve 14 pre-war Council houses, providing them with a hot water system and minor alterations.

During the year a further 7 houses were improved with grant aid provided under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The following shows the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses -

Persons residing in the Borough	...	29
Persons residing outside the Borough	...	24
Aged Persons (Borough bungalows)	...	44

There is a small number of applicants on the Council's list that are regarded as urgently in need of rehousing. These are invariably young families living in furnished accommodation - usually one bedroom and sharing other household conveniences. These families are as a general rule given priority and rehoused as accommodation becomes available.

### Housing Programme

<u>Site</u>	<u>No. of Houses proposed</u>	<u>Completed in 1956</u>	<u>Completed since 1945</u>
Bere Road (Kingsbere Estate	137	-	116
Moreton's Lane	10	-	10
Cockpits Housing Site	2	-	2
Red Lion Garden Site	4	-	4
Moreton's Lane Housing site	2	-	2
Howards Lane Site	3	-	3
Ropers Lane Site	8	-	8
	<u>166</u>		<u>145</u>

(\* Borough Bungalows)

### New Houses

Total number erected during 1956 ... Nil

Number erected with State assistance -

(a) By local authority	...	Nil
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	...	Nil

### Houses Owned by Local Authority

Type	Built pre-war	Built since 1945	Total
Permanent	103	135	238
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	10	10



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were few cases of notifiable infectious disease in the Borough during the year, and no case of poliomyelitis, food poisoning or dysentery notified.

There were no deaths from notifiable infectious disease apart from those due to pneumonia.

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, and vaccination against smallpox is available at the Local Health Authority's Child Welfare Centre, and is also provided by the Medical Practitioners. In addition vaccination with B.C.G. against tuberculosis is provided for children of school leaving age by the Local Health Authority.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During the year the Local Health Authority carried out poliomyelitis vaccination of children between the ages of 7 and 9 years, born in March or November, under a scheme initiated by the Ministry of Health. 16 children living in the Borough completed the course of vaccination. It is hoped that as more vaccine becomes available and the public are more informed as to the simplicity and safety of the vaccination there will be a better response to the offer of protection against this disease which can leave such distressing crippling defects.

Notifications (Corrected) Figures

Disease	Total	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Admitted to Hospital
Whooping cough	18	-	-	1	17	-
Measles	3	2	-	1	-	-
Acute pneumonia	3	-	1	-	2	-
Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-	-	-	1	1

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1956

Disease	Total	Age Groups									
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Ov	A.U.
Whooping cough	18	1	-	2	4	1	8	2	-	-	-
Measles	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ac. Pneumonia	3	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Ov.	A.U.			
		-	2	-	-	1	-	-			
Tuberculosis- respiratory	1	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Ov.	A.U.			
		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

There were no cases reported during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47. Removal of Persons in Need of  
Care and Attention to Suitable Premises

It was not necessary to take action under this section of the Act during the year.



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948Part 1 of the Act1. INSPECTIONS for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	28	3	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	33	3	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re- medied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the ActOUTWORKSection 110 and 111

Outworkers ... Nil







